

**Exeter Public Library
Trustees Meeting
June 19, 2018**

Present: S. Canty, D. Leonard, M. McEntee, J. Peschel, B. Young, L. Wilson, L. Wyskiel, H. Godino
Absent: L. Haslam, M. LaFreniere

Call to Order: 6:30

Barbara opened the meeting with a roll call. The agenda was not followed since the Trustees had asked two visitors to speak at this meeting, Darren Winham and Anthony Mento.

Visitors:

Darren Winham

Jim asked Darren Winham, Economic Development Director for the town of Exeter, to speak on the Business Engagement and Retention Program. The purpose of this program is to bring more businesses into town and, at the same time, retain the ones we already have. In order to help him in this mission, he is planning to do a survey of businesses and needs volunteers to help him out. There will be a training meeting in the Nowak Room at the town office if Trustees are interested in helping.

Jim and the Trustees want him to make sure that he includes the library in this survey. To that end, Darren surveyed the Trustees and Hope. He took notes on the answers but will contact Hope for numbers and more information.

Anthony Mento

Anthony Mento is the project manager for SMP Architects and one of the architects for our library renovation project. Hope had spoken with him a couple of weeks ago and asked him to reduce the project to make it more palatable to the town voters. It was her idea to keep the future building within the limits of its present footprint, incorporating the present meeting room into the children's room, enclosing the three small decks on the 2nd floor allowing the adult area to slightly expand and building multiple meeting rooms on the mezzanine level. At the same time, the HVAC system would be updated, windows would be put in and the entry way would be moved to make it more noticeable. The River Walk would be taken out of the plan although the building would be built with doors in case it ever got built. Presently, the Friends of the Library have taken on the River Walk.

Anthony wanted to discuss these new ideas with the Trustees to make sure that everyone was on the same page. Jim stated that he liked Hope's idea of pairing the project down.

First Anthony asked why the Trustees thought the project didn't get the necessary votes. The consensus was 1. The River Walk. 2. The BLUE color. 3. The Building size 4. Too many big money items on the ballot. 5. Meeting Room issues

Anthony feels that the key to getting the project passed is more community engagement. The Trustees need to reach out to the various groups in town, Kiwanis, Lions, senior centers, Chamber, churches, etc. in order to educate their members through conversation and to answer any questions they might have. At the same time, Trustees need to get names and email addresses for E-Blast project updates. This builds project support and is the key to getting the project passed.

Anthony asked Hope to hire a Civil Engineer, possibly through the town, to do a site survey and an impact test of the building as well as determining the drainage. The present survey that he is using is from before 1980. Hope needs to ask the town to get a municipal exemption from the state in order for the library to be able to be exempt from certain criteria in building so close to the river. Hope said that she has already done this but she will ask again.

Steph left the meeting at 8:15 pm.

It was determined that Anthony will meet again with the Trustees in August. He left the meeting.

New Business:

1. The Trustees decided to meet at 6 pm in August to go over Hope's evaluation, the new financial policy, the Director's Report for June and last month's minutes.
2. Jim had written a draft of two Annual Appeal letters, one for patrons and one for the real estate agents. He will send copies of these letters to the Trustees and they will be discussed at the August meeting also.
3. The meeting with Anthony will be scheduled for 7 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm. **The next meeting will be August 31 at 6:00 pm.**

Pam Darlington